

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (new): A method of producing a sputtering target which comprises a target material comprising as constituent elements Ag, In, Te and Sb with the respective atomic percents (atom.%) of α , β , γ and δ thereof being in the relationship of:

$$0.5 \leq \alpha < 8,$$

$$5 \leq \beta \leq 23,$$

$$17 \leq \gamma \leq 38,$$

$$32 \leq \delta \leq 73,$$

$\alpha \leq \beta$, and

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = 100,$$

comprising the steps of:

fusing a mixture of Ag, In and Te elements to prepare a fused mixture;

cooling said fused mixture to prepare a solid lump;

pulverizing said solid lump to prepare finely-divided particles;

mixing said finely-divided particles with Sb; and

sintering the mixture of said finely-divided particles and Sb.